drawn to the news item captioned "Drug Menace Plaguing India:, appearing in the Times of India, dated November 18, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the Indian youth for the drug menace?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported in the news item mentioned above that India is increasingly being plagued by the drug menace as illicit drug continues to trickle in from South West Asia and South East Asian Countries.

(c) The Ministry of Finance (Narcotic Control Bureau) is the nodal agency for all matters pertaining to supply and control of drugs. For this purpose, it has enacted a comprehensive Law, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988. The main objective of these Acts are to impose stringent punishment for illicit traffickers and offenders.

The Ministry of Welfare is the nodal Ministry to coordinate the demand reduction measures. In order to counteract the increasing demand for dependence producing drugs, this Ministry is implementing since 1985-86 the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention wherein financial assistance is given to non-governmental organisations for running Drug Awareness Counselling and Assistance Centres and De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres. At present 357 Centres are being assisted by the Government of which 129 are De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres and 228 are Counselling Centres.

The Ministry is proposing further to strengthen its demand reduction programmes with greater emphasis on Awareness Generation, Preventive Education Programmes and expansion of Counselling, De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres.

[Translation]

Use of Official Languages

*371. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the places where courses in agricultural technology are being conducted in the Indian languages;

(b) the reasons for undertaking teaching, training and research work only in English language in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(c) whether the Official Languages Act, 1963 has not been implemented;

(d) whether the Government propose to start courses in agricultural technology at all the levels in Indian languages throught out the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) In addition to English, the medium of instruction in Indian languages is also bring followed in GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar; Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur; J.N. Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur; Rajasthan Agril. University Bikaner, NDUAT, Faizabad and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.

(b) English language is being used for teaching in the four National Institutes (IARI, IVRI, NDRI, CIFE) coferred the status of Deemed to be Universities, since students admitted are from all over the country as well as from overseas countries. However, training programmes are conducted in Hindi where the participants do not know English. Students and scientists are encouraged to publish papers in Indian languages. Literature and instructional materials also are being produced in Indian languages.

(c) Provision of Official Languages Act 1963 has been implemented in all ICAR Institutes.

(d) and (e). Agriculture being a State subject, starting courses in agricultural technology at all the levels in Indian languages fall within the perview of the respective State Governments.

[English]

Subsidy on Fertilizers

*372. SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether subsidy on fertilizers has led to a situation where the fertility of the land is affected and the environmentalists are very much concerned about the same;

(b) whether the subsidy is benefiting only the big landlords and not the poor farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that its benefit reaches the poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no evidence to suggest that use of balanced chemical fertilizers destroys soil fertility. Results of long-term experiments have shown that gains in crop productivity due to use of chemical fertilizers can be sustained if the health of soil resource base is maintained through the use of organics. The need, therefore, is for balanced use of chemical fertilizers with integrated use of organics.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The subsidy is benefitting all categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers as per their use.